



## **AEGIS Europe opposes the Commission's approach on the suspension of trade defence measures**

**Brussels, 15 October 2021** – AEGIS Europe calls out the European Commission for undermining the EU's "assertive trade policy" by suspending trade defence measures. The industry alliance warns the Commission's contradictory approach undermines business confidence and jeopardises EU investments into decarbonisation.

*"AEGIS Europe believes that the suspension of trade defence measures should remain an exception and certainly should not be applied just as the EU economy is emerging from the shutdowns caused by the COVID pandemic. The balance of interests between producers, users and consumers has already been properly assessed and verified during the trade defence investigation. If the investigation finds that it is in the Union Interest to impose measures, the Commission cannot at the same time determine that it is in the Union interest to suspend measures. This incoherence undermines business confidence,"* comments Inès Van Lierde, Chair of AEGIS Europe.

European industry believes that the Commission's recent suspension of anti-dumping duties on aluminium flat rolled products from China sets a dangerous precedent for the use of the trade defence instruments and sends the wrong signal to our international trade partners regarding the EU's declared commitment to fight unfair trade practices assertively.

Suspension not only undermines trade defence, but it also undermines the ability of European industry to decarbonise as companies struggle to find the resources to invest in clean technologies if they are competing with dumped and heavily subsidised imports.

*"AEGIS Europe urges the Commission to reconsider the suspension of measures,"* concluded Van Lierde.

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### *About AEGIS Europe:*

AEGIS Europe is an industry alliance that brings together more than 20 European manufacturing associations from metals and ceramics to energy and transportation industries committed to manufacturing in the EU on a truly level playing field ensured by a rules-based free and fair international trade. Our members account for more than €500 billion in annual turnover, as well as for millions of jobs across the EU.